

# SENATOR TOM UDALL: A CLIMATE, CLEAN ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

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Tom Udall is one of our nation's leading champions for clean energy and the environment. Throughout his career, Udall has pushed for bold legislation that would protect American families from toxic pollution, address the existential threat of climate change and make the U.S. a leader in clean, sustainable energy production.

Udall has been a trailblazer for national solutions to support an American clean energy economy and tackle climate change.

Tom introduced the first bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to cap U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, in 2006. He passed the first Renewable Electricity Standard in the House of Representatives in 2007, and in 2016 he successfully reformed our nation's badly broken chemical safety law—the *Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976*. Udall's TSCA reform was the first major environmental law enacted in 20 years.

As the **Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**, Tom has secured increases for funding for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and many other critical agencies while staving off steep cuts proposed by the Trump Administration, and defending the bills against anti-environmental riders.

# PROTECTING AMERICAN FAMILIES FROM TOXIC CHEMICALS AND POLLUTION



Tom has spent his career fighting to protect American families and communities from toxic chemicals and pollution.

Tom successfully led the long, tough fight to pass The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act that overhauled the Toxic Substances Control Act, to protect the American people from dangerous chemicals. This was *the first major environmental legislation passed by Congress in 20 years.*

Tom's vision for a sustainable future is bold, with environmental justice as a north star.

He is the author of the landmark *Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020*, first-of-its-kind legislation in the U.S. Congress to comprehensively tackle the plastic pollution crisis that is flooding the planet. The bill phases out unnecessary single-use plastic products and holds manufacturers accountable for wasteful products. *Plastic production is a major contributor to climate change.*

*“Marginalized communities—communities of color, low-income communities and Native communities—bear the worst consequences of environmental destruction often caused by the rich and powerful. It’s up to all of us to fight for environmental laws and policies that address these issues and uplift communities historically left behind.”*

– U.S. Senator Tom Udall



## Tom led the fight to successfully protect farmworkers from toxic pesticides.

Tom successfully blocked a Trump administration effort to repeal Obama-Biden protections to **protect 3 million farmworkers, including 500,000 children working in agriculture, from dangerous pesticides.**

**Setting the Future Agenda for Pesticides:** Tom worked with farmworkers, environmental justice advocates and other stakeholders to introduce **the first-ever bill to reform** the badly broken federal law that regulates pesticides. He has led the fight to ban the toxic pesticide **chlorpyrifos**.

## Booting Scott Pruitt, the most anti-environmental EPA Administrator in history

Tom led the charge to keep EPA accountable during the Trump administration, driving the effort to force Scott Pruitt's resignation with tough oversight and by **sponsoring a resolution calling for his ouster that garnered 170 cosponsors, including 39 Senators**— the most senators ever to sponsor a resolution calling for a cabinet official to resign.

## Successful Action on PFAS Chemicals

Tom secured passage of the PFAS Damages Act that gives the Department of Defense authority to provide farmers and ranchers fresh water or treat water contaminated by PFAS compounds due to activities on a military installation.

Tom secured **\$43 million in new funding for environmental cleanup programs and related scientific research to help address contamination caused by PFAS chemicals** and other contaminants of emerging concern.

Tom also led the fight in 2017 to defeat the nomination of Michael Dourson to lead the EPA agency in charge of regulating PFAS and chemicals.



## Protecting Bedrock Environmental Laws

Tom has worked tirelessly to protect laws like the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Tom has fought the Trump administration's efforts to roll back these laws and stood as a leading advocate against Congressional attempts to weaken them. He's **fought off nearly 100 anti-environmental riders** in the Interior Appropriations bills that would have dismantled key pieces of these critical environmental laws.

# FIGHTING FOR CLEAN ENERGY JOBS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

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Tom has been a **leader in the fight against climate change from the beginning**. He introduced the first bipartisan, binding legislation in the House to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. He has been a leading Senate climate action champion.



Tom was ***one of ten Senate Democrats from the Foreign Relations Committee to attend the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris, France*** in 2015. He fought the Trump administration's efforts to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Accord.

## Leader of the Federal Renewable Electricity Standard

In 2002, Tom was the first in the House to introduce a national renewable electricity standard (RES) and, in 2007, ***became the first to pass a RES in the House of Representatives***. Udall secured 45 bipartisan votes for a 30% by 2035 RES in 2015.

Tom revamped the legislation in 2019 under a new and modern approach that would ***achieve 50% renewable electricity by 2035 and zero-carbon electricity by 2050*** by driving renewable energy development in all 50 states.

## Leading the Charge Against Methane—a Climate Super-Pollutant

Tom led the successful fight on the Senate floor in 2017 to defend the Obama-Biden administration's Bureau of Land Management methane control rules from repeal. He secured bipartisan support for his efforts, ***one of only 2 successful attempts to block 18 fast-tracked Trump rollbacks using the Congressional Review Act***.

Tom continued this fight in the courts by ***leading 51 lawmakers in filing an amicus brief challenging Trump methane rollbacks***.

Tom secured Senate approval of key methane climate amendments to the PIPES Act. The amendments require new rules on oil and gas pipeline operators to detect and fix methane leaks and the first-ever national safety standards for natural gas gathering lines. It's one of the few legislative provisions to pass in a Republican Senate to set new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Fighting for Environmental Justice for All

Tom has stood up for comprehensive environmental justice legislation to achieve health equity and climate justice for all, particularly underserved communities and communities of color.

Tom fought with Tribes to ***oppose damaging pipelines like the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines***.

Cosponsor of the Environmental Justice for All Act. He also secured a more than 50 percent increase in funding for EPA's environmental justice activities.

Tom has tackled climate change from multiple angles, including **getting a majority of the Senate to support his proposal for Clean Energy Victory Bonds** in 2016.

Clean Energy Victory Bonds are modeled after World War II victory bonds and would allow the American public to join together to finance major clean energy projects at massive scale.



**BUY ENERGY BONDS**

Tom authored the **GREENER Fuels act to reform the Renewable Fuel Standard** to reverse the tide of habitat destruction and promote advanced biofuels that reduce greenhouse gases.

Tom has supported **renewable energy development on public lands** by cosponsoring the Public Lands Renewable Energy Act. And as a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has **fought disastrous budget cuts by the Trump administration – securing major funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy.**